

REMARKS

I. Status of claims

By this Amendment, Applicant has cancelled claims 9-14 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof. Upon entry of this Reply, claims 1-8 and 15-18 remain pending and under current examination.

II. Regarding the non-final Office Action

In the Office Action of August 24, 2005, the Examiner rejected claims 9-14 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,867,579 to *Saito*; and allowed claims 1-8 and 15-18. Applicant addresses the rejection below.

III. Regarding the rejection of claims 9-14 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Applicant traverses the rejection of claims 9-14 as anticipated by *Saito*. However, to advance prosecution, Applicant has cancelled claims 9-14. The Examiner's rejection of claims 9-14 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) has therefore been rendered moot by Applicant's cancellation of these claims.

IV. Conclusion

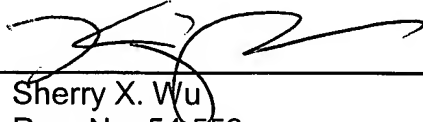
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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